The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 10. NO. 42. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1921. WHOLE NO. 510.

RIGHT IS IMPOSSIBLE : : WHEN BASED ON WRONG

"The public's rights are paramount," shriek can't-strike advocates.

These breeders of anarchy and spawners of tyranny would handcuff portions of the public to their jobs and then lisp nursery tales of "the public's rights."

"Right" based on a denial of liberty is a contradiction. To claim the contrary is to uproot the Declaration of Independence.

A public opinion manufactured by the smug forces of reaction cannot justify wrong.

Until quite recently it was America's boast that men are free. The tune is now pitched to "the public's rights" by coarse-minded, dollar-chasing profiteers who are devoid of even that sense of honor that marked the road agent in stage-coach days.

When can't-strike advocates profess an interest in "the public's rights" they are untruthful, illogical and inconsistent.

If they were truthful they would not use the term, for right is impossible when based on wrong.

If they were logical they would not proclaim "the public's rights" and remain silent on the public's duties.

There can be no right without a corresponding duty.

Duties are as binding as rights. The true man resists injustice to others as vigorously as he insists on his own rights. If he fails to act the part of a true man he will eventually lose his rights.

If can't-strike advocates were consistent they would prove their high regard for "the public's rights" by putting an end to their exploitation of the public.

Autocracy is interested in the public for two reasons: To exploit it and to have it pull its chestnuts out of the fire.

Autocracy will defy the public or court it, as best suits its purpose.

Today autocracy, with its long record of corruption, exploitation and special privilege, is posing as a champion of the people—is thundering for "the public's rights."

Its bellboys in legislative halls and penny-a-liners on its secretly-owned press have taken up the cry.

But autocracy makes no call for the public to awaken to its duties—to enter the contest for social justice and liberty.

That call has no place in the program of enslaving workers while other citizens, who should be in the fight to maintain liberty, are lulled into inaction by a reasoning process that reflects on man's intellect.

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

Employers Favored Forced Arbitration; Now Wreck It to "Get" Upright Judge

Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 8.—Employers have wrecked the Australian compulsory arbitration act, which they forced upon this commonwealth, and Justice Higgins, president of the federal arbitration court since 1907, has announced that he will resign when his term expires, next September.

The scheme of having unions register and set wages by law, that was first advocated by employers, is now rejected because Justice Higgins refuses to take orders. He has been driven from office by new legislation which provides for temporary tribunals. This bill was urged by Prime Minister Hughes, following a barrage against Justice Higgins by large employing interests and the tory press.

When the bill was being debated the president of the powerful Australian Workers' union, and a member of the federal parliament, declared that if it were adopted he would recommend to his fellow unionists that they depend upon themselves, rather than on arbitration courts.

The passage of Premier Hughes' bill is the culmination of a campaign started three years ago against Justice Higgins by employers' associations. The cry to remove him did not bring results and the next move of employers was to throw every dispute possible into the court, while parliament aided in breaking down the arbitration court machinery by refusing to vote appropriations for assistance. Large unions waited for months for a decision and strikes resulted.

The Australian Worker, published in Sydney, New South Wales, says:

"With the resignation of Judge Higgins the capitalists of this country and their political touts in the federal parliament have accomplished all that they set out to do."

The Daily Herald, published in Adelaide, South Australia, says:

"The latest developments in arbitration in Australia tend to discredit that method and tend to make the workers depend more upon their own resources. Justice Higgins has fallen foul of the big financial and employing interests whose schemes of exploitation he nipped to some extent by compelling employers to pay decent wages. The new legislation has, according to Mr. Justice Higgins, undermined the usefulness of the arbitration court and made his position as president untenable. The judge had in the circumstances no other course open to him than to throw up his job."

The Daily Herald calls attention to a similar move being made in South Australia against the state arbitration court, whose presiding officer has given "intense dissatisfaction to the government and the employing classes generally with his basic wage judgment."

The South Australian Printing Industry Employes' union has decided to deal with employers direct and keep away from the state arbitration court, and the Daily Herald says:

"If the tinkering with arbitration that has gone on to date continues, the rest of the organized workers will have no option but to follow the example of the printers and ignore the industrial courts."

ENGLAND'S UNEMPLOYED.

London, England, Jan. 8.—The grave problem of unemployment in this country threatens to develop into a crisis of the first magnitude. It is estimated that there are nearly 1,000,000 persons out of work, including 250,000 ex-service men. The government has voted a supplementary appropriation of £3,500,000 for the ministry of labor toward state contributions for unemployment insurance and out-of-work donations.

Alderman Ben Turner has startled staid conservatives by his direct appeal to the king, who has received this letter from the trade unionist on unemployment:

"For God's sake, urge your ministers to tackle the problem at once. It is imperative, if danger is to be averted, that the unemployment benefit during the present trade collapse, should apply to every one. The crisis is urgent; the need is urgent. There is no time for delay. Starvation is with us. Hunger runs riot in the country, anger from despair. Help to make the life of our people secure."

The king forwarded the letter to Premier Lloyd George.

APPRECIATE SERVICE.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Jan. 8.—Members of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters appreciate the years of service of President Menge and have refused to accept his resignation because of failing health. When the resignation was presented several weeks ago it was accepted by the executive board, but as a result of protests by locals, the board rescinded its action and voted President Menge leave of absence with pay. This was agreed to by the trade unionist with the understanding that the brotherhood would not be put to additional expense. Secretary-Treasurer Wood has volunteered to carry on the work of president, with the aid of the executive board, during President Menge's enforced idleness.

ALWAYS ANTI-UNION.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 8.—The Merchants and Manufacturers' association has asked the Brownstein-Lewis company to resign from that body because this firm is erecting a building with the understanding that only union labor shall be employed.

And the union smashers smilingly assure gullibles that "we make no distinction between unionists and non-unionists" and "we insist on the right of every man to run his own business."

CAN FIX DISPUTED RENTS.

New York, Jan. 8.—The Brooklyn appellate court has upheld the state law which empowers municipal courts to fix rents that are in dispute between landlords and tenants.

FORGET OLD CRY.

Manchester, England, Jan. 8.—With unemployment general, the Cotton Factory Times asks what has become of the charge that workers are "shirking."

"We do not find the capitalist press, which villified the miners and other workers so much some months ago in reference to ca-cannyism, saying anything in their columns at the present moment on that topic. The cry, almost pathetic at times, that work people should turn out every available ounce of production, has suddenly become mute. The newspapers in question are 'laying low' in face of the daily spectacle of thousands of unemployed, willing and able to work.

"We should like some of the clever writers to leave their armchairs and show us the remedy for the state of things described. It is no answer to tell us that the depression is, to a certain extent, world wide. Such a reply only admits the evil is extensive."

MINERS WILL WIN.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 8.—The miners will win their fight for justice in Mingo county, declares the West Virginia Federationist. These mountain men are inured to hardship. They have had a continuous fight during the past 20 years and have battered down opposition except in one small portion of West Virginia, where the coal owners, with their gun men, and a poisoned press, backed by the machinery of the state, are making their last stand.

Governor Cornwall has failed to drive the miners back to work and the state executive will retire from office and join the long list of discredited men who believe that power can defeat principle.

WOULD BUILD HOUSES.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Congressman Tinkham has introduced a bill to establish a bureau of construction and housing to relieve "a shortage of 2,000,000 homes in the United States." The bureau would be under the direction of the department of commerce. Provision is made to study various methods of city planning, economic and practical methods for the elimination of slums and the formulation of building codes in the various cities and states.

CAR COMPANY STRIKES.

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 8.—The Syracuse & Suburban Electric railroad suspended operations between this city, Fayetteville and Manilus because of lack of operating revenue.

When workers suspend operations because of a lack of operating revenue a howl is heard about "the rights of the public," but in the case of the street car company the cry is not heard.

FADDISTS' PINK TEAS CAN'T AMERICANIZE

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 8. — The Americanization plan of faddists, pink tea devotees and society idlers has failed, declared Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, state superintendent of public instruction, at an Americanization conference of the state educational association.

"We have had meetings and teas and receptions and heard big men and little men, and exploited the matter," said Dr. Finegan, "but we have really done little in regard to one of the most important subjects in the United States today."

While the immigration policy of industrial interests in this state was not referred to by Dr. Finegan he surprised his audience by the statement that there are 418,000 persons over the age of 14 in Pennsylvania who not only can not read or write English, but who do not seem to be able to read or write any language, and that there are less than 10,000 in Americanization schools.

"Americanization is not a state but a national problem," continued the speaker. "What we need is a determination by the national government that all illiterates shall become educated, and then, if the national government will supply funds the states can perfect organizations."

Dr. Finegan's plea for Americanization will be of especial interest to organized public school teachers, who are opposed by the state superintendent. He has opposed trade unionism among those who must inculcate into the minds of the rising generation that this is a land of the free.

HIGH SCHOOLS INCREASE.

Washington, Jan. 8.—In a pamphlet on high schools in this country, issued by the federal bureau of education, it is stated that the total number of these schools that made reports in 1917-18 was 13,951. The mailing list of the bureau includes the names of 16,300 high schools. It is stated that the number of these schools has increased over 452 per cent since 1890. This means that one high school has been established in this country each day in each calendar year since 1890—a high school a day for 28 years.

In 1890 only 60.8 per cent of the high schools were under public control, but in 1918 the public controlled high schools were 87 per cent of the whole.

The average size of a city high school is 653 students, and a rural school 59 students.

In 1890 only 3.2 persons in each 1,000 population were enrolled in public high schools. In 1918 the corresponding number was 15.6, or almost five times as great a proportion. California leads in high school education with 27 persons out of each 1,000 in the population. Kansas is a close second, with South Carolina at the bottom of the list with 5.3 persons.

The District of Columbia has the largest public school libraries, followed by California and New York. Maine has the smallest libraries, with Delaware just above it.

WANT UNIONS "DILUTED."

London, England, Jan. 8. — The government is demanding "dilution" in the building trades, as was the case during war times when many membership regulations were set aside. The unions are asking the government for guarantees against unemployment, and declare if this guarantee is not forthcoming they will not surrender guarantees their unions afford. To date the government has not given these pledges.

President Hicks of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives charges the government with trying to discredit the trade union movement to cover up its own inaction and bungling in the unemployment crisis.

"The building trades," he said, "are not responsible for the war, or for unemployment. It is the profiteers and the government who share the joint responsibility, and in the absence of adequate guarantees against destitution in return for considering their proposals, the building trades are prepared to use their utmost strength to protect their own interests."

LABOR SPIES EXPOSED.

Akron, Ohio, Jan. 8.—The labor movement has uncovered a spy system that involved many of the larger unions and the central labor union. Ten of these spies, working for the Corporations' auxiliary of Cleveland, have been exposed and have fled from the city. The spies worked themselves into official positions in the central body and in the local unions of carpenters, machinists, iron molders, steam fitters, bricklayers and street car men.

One of the spies confessed that his duty was to keep the auxiliary posted on what the union was doing and the activity of the individuals. He was paid $110 a month, the paymaster meeting the spy on the street or some appointed place, as no checks were used.

The spy expose comes at a time when the manufacturers are pushing their anti-union shop campaign.

FLOCKING TO CITIES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 8.—Approximately 70 per cent of the people in this state live in cities and towns, according to figures issued by the state department of internal affairs. During the last 20 years population increases in the cities and towns have been substantial, while increases in the rural districts have been very small.

DISCUSS WAGE RATES.

New York, Jan. 8.—Representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union are discussing a new wage rate with the association of dress manufacturers. The workers are asking for wage increases and improved working conditions, while the bosses demand wage reductions.

INDICT COAL GOUGERS.

New York, Jan. 8.—A federal grand jury has indicted a mining company at Scranton and one at Luzerne, Pa., for profiteering. It is charged that these concerns sold coal at from $13 to $15 a ton when a "reasonable price would have been about $8.25 a ton."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 8.—The annual convention of the Louisiana state federation of labor will be held in the city this first Monday in April.

COAL MINERS DEMAND INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM

Williamson, W. Va., Jan. 8.—"The quarrel in Mingo county is the same as in other fields where men had to organize for industrial freedom," says David Fowler and David Robb, international representatives of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The miners of this county, more than a year ago, petitioned the coal companies for a redress of their grievances and better pay, in line with the standards accepted in other fields.

"What were those grievances? That the mines be aired according to the mining laws of the state; that the places be drained, in line with modern standards set up for the health and convenience of the men; that the hauling and distribution of mine cars be impartially managed; that each miner have the same opportunity of earning a living, without prejudice by the management, paying for yardage and dead work (where there is hazard, and skill required that lessens the opportunities of production), and last, but not least, the right to organize and bargain collectively.

"The coal operators refused to recognize the rights of the miners and the men appealed to President Keeney of district No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, for assistance. As the men organized they were discharged and thrown out of their homes, oftentimes their furniture being thrown out on the public highway, and some of the more prominent committeemen maltreated by the Baldwin-Feltz detective agency and private gun men hired for this purpose. This continued for some time, until a high percentage of the men were discharged and it was either submit to the rule of thugs and murderers or offer industrial battle. The miners chose the latter course in the spirit of Americans who believe that they have the same right to organize as the coal masters, and the battle is now on, with all the misery and suffering incidental to such contests, and where the average miner, with his family, is never very far from the door of starvation in fields of this kind.

"But the miners are hopeful and determined to face the rigors of winter before they will submit and return to economic and industrial slavery."

WHY FARMS ARE IDLE.

Washington, Jan. 8.—In the last five years the selling price of farm land and improvements increased 65 per cent and in some sections the net return on this purchase price is less than the ordinary interest on mortgages and similar investments, said Secretary of Agriculture Meredith in his annual report.

"Much loose thinking and many wrong conclusions are based on false impressions concerning the profitableness of farming. The increase in farm profits during the war was inevitably transitory. Moreover, measured in purchasing power, they shrank rapidly as a result of the rise in general commodity prices. Owing to the highly competitive character of his business and the lack of organization, the farmer has had no effective means of preventing the impairment of his profits; his only recourse has been to migrate to the city and change his occupation, a course actually followed by many.

"In the light of these facts and a fear of a continued decline of profits, it is clear why the tendency to expand the crop area has been suddenly reversed."

HITS IMMIGRATION PLAN.

New York, Jan. 8.—Coleman du Pont, chairman of the board of directors of the interracial council, opposes the immigration restriction bill, which recently passed the house of representatives. Mr. du Pont wants things fixed so that immigrants who are admitted will "contribute to the upbuilding of the country."

This is the position of those who favor restricting immigration, but the latter elements believe that the country can be built up by checking an immigration that comes so fast it can not be assimilated, and which reduces living standards of those now here.

The interracial council is an organization of employers and others who have taken it upon themselves to speak with authority on the immigration question and to "Americanize" the immigrant. The president of this organization is William H. Barr, of Buffalo, president of the anti-union National Founders' association.

SLAVE LAW DENOUNCED.

Minneapolis, Jan. 8.—Trade unionists, together with other citizens, denounced the Kansas "can't-strike" law at a hearing before a committee of the Bar association.

Thomas Van Lear, former mayor and member of the Machinists' union, ridiculed the effectiveness of slave legislation and declared it would have the opposite result from that intended by its advocates. If such a law is passed, Van Lear suggested that three well-known injunction judges in this city be empowered to enforce the act.

"If we wish to arrange our Christian ethics so as to believe in slavery, this subterfuge might be all right, but those who favor this legislation ought to be willing to come right out in the open and favor slavery," Van Lear said.

UNIONS TIGHTEN LINES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 8.—The anti-union shop challenge of the United States chamber of commerce and its affiliates is accepted by organized labor in this state. The unionists answer it with one word, "fight." President Riley of the state federation of labor has made a tour of the state, and everywhere the lines are being tightened, mass meetings held, and organizing and educational committees appointed to impress upon workers what the anti-union shop means.

STANDARD OIL CONTROLS.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Standard oil, through long-time contracts, has a monopoly in the production, transportation and marketing of petroleum throughout the entire Rocky Mountain section, according to a report sent to congress by the federal trade commission.

"The midwest refining interests," says the report, "are controlled by the Standard oil company of Indiana, through contracts which expire January 1, 1934."

HOW "PUBLIC" OPINION IS MOLDED BY GREED

Washington, Jan. 8.—How greed molds "public" opinion was illustrated in the house of representatives by Congressman Huddleston in discussing the Cummins-Esch railroad law which was backed, he declared, by the strongest lobby ever assembled in Washington.

"The power of the interests behind the railroads is overwhelming," he said. "They are able to control and mold public opinion at will. At a sign from them the presses of great newspapers change stroke, the channels of public information are blocked, criticism is silenced and bandages are placed upon the eyes of the people.

"Dealing with the great selfish interests we are confronted not only by railroad officials and manipulators, but with captains of industry and finance, capitalists, and, after them, with civic bodies and with wealth and property interests with lines running from the heart of Wall street throughout American business life down to the shareholder of the country bank. All are marshaled to meet an attack.

"It is not merely a matter of politics or business, but ties into social affiliation and prestige; and the attacker finds himself not only strangled in business life, but alienated from his friends. To attack the great financial interests is, they say, 'making war on society and on our institutions.' To criticize the crooked managements or railroads, the schemes by which they are enabled to fleece the people, is to be a 'socialist' or a 'bolshevist' and an enemy of society and to be frowned on by the highest social classes from the metropolitan club house to the lively circles of the village literary society."

RAILROAD BILL VETOED.

Washington, Jan. 8. — President Wilson has vetoed a bill which would permit railroads and their officials to buy equipment from private companies in which they are interested.

The bill would postpone the enforcement of an act that was passed six years ago, and which has been previously postponed at the request of the railroads. In his veto the president said the railroads have had ample time to observe the law.

The railroads' plan, which has been checked by the president, would permit railroad managers and owners, who are interested in equipment companies, to buy from these concerns at their own price.

Railroad stockholders have been gouged without limit by this method. An extension of this privilege would mean that the government would be gouged as it guarantees dividends to stockholders and it would be called upon to meet deficits caused by the railroad managers selling to themselves.

In a protest to the president against extending the law, President Johnston of the International Association of Machinists showed that railroads could close their repair shops and turn this work over to private corporations in which the railroad owners and managers are interested.

RAIL WORKERS WANT VOICE.

London, England, Jan. 8.—A nation-wide railroad strike is possible if promises made to these employes are not kept, is the prediction by J. H. Thomas, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen. When the last strike was settled, the government promised the men they would be given a voice in the management of the roads. Next August the government's control of the roads comes to an end and the question of a succeeding system has not been settled. The companies have let it be known that any scheme of future management must not infringe on their absolute control, but they are willing that the employes make suggestions. The associated chambers of commerce has rushed to the rescue of the roads and assert that no railway worker should be on the board of directors of a road unless he is elected by the directors.

Influential and liberal-minded newspapers are not in sympathy with the railroads' position. The Manchester Guardian says: "Only when the railway companies have proved their case, as well as asserted it, will public opinion support them."

KICKING AT STONE WALL.

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—The recent convention of city and county school superintendents of this state was distinguished by hostility to teachers' unions. These educators announced at the close of their conference that the meetings were "replete with fine spirit."

This "fine spirit" was absent, however, when unionization of teachers was discussed. Superintendent Cross of Fresno suggested that a base ball bat or gatling gun be used against the Teachers' unions. This sentiment has probably impressed the Fresno board of education, which has raised the wages of Cross $1,000 a year. Mrs. Dorsey, superintendent of Los Angeles schools, praised the efforts of her colleagues in Fresno and San Francisco to "stamp out the teachers' unions in those cities."

The Teachers' unions, however, refuse to be stamped out.

UNUSUAL AWARD.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 8.—An unusual compensation award has been made in the case of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Maguire of near Conshohocken, whose husband was killed by a foreigner outside the plant in which both were employed. Maguire was a foreman and the foreigner declared he would "get him" because of a dispute in the shop.

The state compensation board ruled that the fact that the assault took place off the premises does not alter the case, and that there was an unbroken chain of events from the quarrel in the plant to the attack a few feet off the premises.

HOUSING OUTLOOK BAD.

New York, Jan. 8.—Because of lack of housing in this city Dr. Copeland, health commissioner, fears an increase in the tuberculosis mortality rate. He says insanitary conditions create an excellent field for the spread of disease and is sure to result in a moral and mental degeneracy.

ADJUST WAGE DISPUTE.

Philadelphia, Jan. 8.—A wage dispute between organized cloak makers and employers has been adjusted by an agreement that old rates be retained.

ANTI-UNION PRETENSE DENOUNCED BY CLERGY

New York, Jan. 8.—"In the light of what has happened in the steel industry, where the so-called American principle of employment has been fully demonstrated over a period of years, it also seems quite clear to us that the success of the present 'open shop' campaign would mean the establishment of a closed shop—closed against union labor, and would return large numbers of wage earners to the living standards of sweated industries," is one of the strong declarations by the Methodist federation for social service in a statement just issued.

"In the light of what is now happening in certain local mining districts in West Virginia," continue these church men, "we regard it as certain that the consummation of this 'open shop' campaign will perpetuate and increase chaos, anarchy and warfare in our industrial life.

"The leaders of this 'open shop' campaign announce themselves as champions of the rights and freedom of the unorganized man, but the kind of freedom and protection that the so-called 'individual rights' policy actually gives to the unorganized man can be ascertained by reading the report of the interchurch movement on the steel strike.

"In the steel industry this labor policy, conceived in the same spirit as the present 'open shop' campaign and defended on the same ground of right and principle, has meant the destruction of all labor organization, long hours, low standards of living and the denial of civil liberties to entire communities.

"The practical results of this 'right' of a powerful corporation to deal with wage workers as individuals do not justify it as either a right or a principle.

"This movement is the embodiment of a determination repeatedly expressed in war time by certain leaders of finance and industry to 'put labor in its place after the war.'"

WANT MOBBERS PROBED.

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—Secretary Scharrenberg of the California state federation of labor has made public a letter to Judge H. L. Burroughs of the Susanville superior court, who stated that the grand jury would not investigate the mobbing of Harry Wood, vice president of the International Timber Workers' union at Susanville, last November.

Wood was organizing the timber workers at the time, when he was arrested and later run out of town. In voicing the demand of the state federation of labor that justice be done, Secretary Scharrenberg said:

"The entire community is aware of the guilty ones and the men who actually participated in this outrage. The slightest inquiry under oath of various men suspected of being involved would clear the matter up.

"If labor union men were accused of this outrage of abducting a citizen, jailing him and treating him as Harry Wood has been treated, the grand jury would have met long since and have returned indictments.

"To permit mob violence to go unrebuked and uninvestigated seems to the people at a distance to be a tacit acquiescence in such outrages on the part of men whose duty it is to enforce the law. We understand, of course, that it is the district attorney's duty to present these matters, but he having failed to do so, we must respectfully urge that it is the duty of the court to call the attention of the grand jury to the matter and ask them to investigate."

GRACIOUS! WHAT'S THIS?

New York, Jan. 8.—The New York Times, that staunch defender of things that are, talks about "a diabolical conspiracy of capital" against labor. When a trade unionist makes this charge, the Times smiles pityingly.

It would appear, however, that some coal dealer has stung the editor, or he has been caught in the stock market, that has been falling at the rate of a mile a minute.

It is evident that the editor has had a temporary lapse, and has soured on his world, for in discussing high prices and unemployment, he asks: "What is the motive behind all this agitation?"

And then he answers his own question as follows:

"To the common sense view there is only one explanation of all this. It is a diabolical conspiracy of capital. Overloaded with unsold goods and confronted by a sudden cessation of buying power, employers have formulated strikes in order to put a stop to production and thus maintain prices until they have worked off their old stocks."

SEAMEN TO CONVENE.

Philadelphia, Jan. 8.—The twenty-fourth annual convention of the International Seamen's union of America convenes in this city January 10. Nearly 100 delegates will be present, representing 100,000 organized seafarers.

The first convention of this organization was held in New York City in 1895. Eleven delegates were present. At that time seamen were considered as part of the vessel, as much as the hawser and the sails. If they quit they were arrested and thrown back on the ship.

Since then the seamen have won their freedom to quit and they have also raised wages, improved working conditions and established a status of free men. This has been done through their trade union.

WANT STATE COSSACKS.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 8.—A bill to establish the cossack system in this state has been prepared. The cossacks, trade unionists are assured, will be used in case of fire, flood or other public calamity, and shall not be used for patrol or guard duty at any labor dispute, strike or lockout.

The bill reads fine, until the "joker" appears in the form of a clause which permits cossack officials to "have representatives present in any strike or lockout for the purpose of detecting or preventing crime."

This is the reason always advance by this angelic crew for clubbing strikers and riding down women and children.

FLAT JANITORS WIN.

Chicago, Jan. 8.—The Flat Janitors' union has blocked the attempt of apartment owners to reduce wages. Chief of Police Fitzmorris acted as arbitrator and his award provides that wages shall not be reduced and if rents are increased, wages shall also be advanced.

CLAYTON LAW IS SMASHED BY U. S. SUPREME COURT

Washington, Jan. 8.—In a six-to-three decision the United States supreme court rules that the Duplex Printing Press company of Battle Creek, Mich., can secure an injunction against officials of Machinists' unions of New York city and others restraining them from carrying on a boycott against the company.

The defendant unionists claimed that the Clayton amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law debarred an injunction in these cases. This position was sustained by a minority of the court—Justices Brandeis, Holmes and Clark.

Two sections of the Clayton law—six and twenty—are treated at length in the majority opinion which holds, in effect, that section six permits unions to engage in "normal activities," but they are not privileged "to become a cloak for an illegal combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade as defined by the anti-trust laws."

Section twenty provides that no injunction shall be issued in "a case between an employer and employes, involving or growing out of a dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment."

The court holds that this provision applies only to parties directly involved. The court says this section can not be regarded as including all members of a labor organization as parties to a "dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment" which proximately affects only a few of them.

The court says that the emphasis placed by congress on the words "lawful" and "peaceful" rebut a legislative intent "to confer a general immunity for conduct violative of the anti-trust laws, or otherwise unlawful."

In effect, the decision is as follows:

Machinists may strike against the printing press company but when machinists in New York ask other unionists not to handle the non-union machines, this is a conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce and is in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and the Clayton law does not apply.

The strike against the Duplex started in 1913 when machinists attempted to enforce uniform working conditions in printing press manufacturing plants. The machinists secured agreements with three of the largest companies in the country and these concerns insisted that the Duplex be included that the business be placed on the same competitive basis. The Duplex refused and to hold their conditions in the other plants the machinists were compelled to call a strike. The New York machinists conducted a vigorous fight against the Duplex and as that city is a printing center its business was affected.

The company asked the New York federal district court for an injunction but this was denied and the Clayton law upheld. The circuit of appeals took the same position, both decisions being now reversed by the United States supreme court.

Dollars Protected; Human Rights Ignored

By FRANK MORRISON, Secretary, A. F. of L.

The United States supreme court's decision in the Duplex-machinists' case is the result of the efforts of the machinists to improve conditions. They secured these conditions from three large concerns in the same line of business as the Duplex, and these concerns called upon the machinists to place the Duplex upon the same competitive basis. That company refused, and to hold what they had in the other plants the Duplex machinists struck. The machinists everywhere aided their fellows, as did unionists in other trades.

This movement should be indorsed by every humane person and the policy of the Duplex should be condemned, but the United States supreme court says that the boycott—the workers' only weapon in this case—is illegal and is a violation of the anti-trust act because it interferes with interstate commerce.

Compared with this position by the supreme court is its recent refusal to dissolve the United States steel trust. The minority opinion is that case declared that the trust was "organized in plain violation and bold defiance" of the anti-trust act, but the court refused to dissolve it because of a "risk of injury to the public interest, including a material disturbance of, and, it may be, serious detriment to the foreign trade."

The court's decisions in the Duplex and the steel trust cases speak for themselves. They support every claim made by organized labor on the attitude of federal courts when human rights and dollars are involved.

BETHLEHEM "UNION" IS COMPANY ADJUNCT

Bethlehem, Pa., Jan. 8.—Mr. Grace of the Bethlehem Steel company has reminded employes that there is a company "union" in his plant. The workers had almost forgotten this "union," which is composed of strikebreakers employed during the steel strike. Mr. Grace referred to his "union" when he explained in New York why his concern refuses to sell steel to contractors who employ union labor.

During the war several attempts were made to establish collective bargaining at the Bethlehem plant. The national war labor board suggested a plan and the workers asked that a clause be included whereby disputed points between them and the company could be referred to the United States secretary of labor. The company refused to acknowledge that the plan had any jurisdiction in its plant and failed to appoint arbitration or conciliation boards. When the men joined the steel strike on September 29, 1919, the company threw out the war labor board plan, blacklisted practically every committeeman the men had elected and put into effect their own plan. Committeemen from the strikebreakers have been in charge of the company "union" since that time.

Only the strikebreakers, petty bosses, the management and its publicity agents are interested in this "union" which makes conditions of the workers worse than if no "union" existed. Now, if the workers form a 100 per cent bona fide union and present grievances they are told that they must act through "the duly elected committees of the company plan."

All of the steel mills in this vicinity that have announced wage reductions have the same company "union" plan. These representatives are called into the company office and told that a wage reduction is necessary. The "representatives" of the workers agree and then the company issues a public statement on the establishment of democracy and the cordial relations between employer and employed at that plant.

The Bethlehem has used this method in its 20 per cent wage reduction just announced.

R. R. SCANDAL RECALLED.

New York, Jan. 8.—"The good old days" of railroad jobbery were recalled by the ending of the $150,000,000 stockholders' suit against William Rockefeller and other former directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. The defendants were charged with waste and mismanagement. By the terms of the settlement in Federal Judge Hough's court the defendants are ordered to pay $2,500,000 to the railroad, with one-third of the amount for attorney fees.

Other stockholders are privileged to sue the former directors, but this is hardly possible in view of the years the present suit has been in the courts, the small amount returned and the large attorney fees.

PEOPLE WANT PEACE.

London, England, Jan. 8.—"Statesmen lie when they talk of nations or peoples favoring their militaristic policies," is the blunt declaration of Reynolds's Newspaper.

"It is a lie," continues the editor. "The people—the mass of men and women who earn their daily bread so hardly—have had enough of war and the spirit that leads to war. That is certainly true of the people of this country and we believe it true of every other country."

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report recent gains in nearly a score of cities, where wages have been advanced and working conditions improved. Charters have been issued for new locals in Alexandria, La., and Charlotte, N. C.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE NOT TAUGHT ALIENS

Washington, Jan. 8.—The statement by the state superintendent of public instruction of Pennsylvania that the Americanization of foreigners by faddists has failed, recalls the recent publication of a study of this subject in Passaic, N. J., by the United States bureau of education.

This pamphlet exposes the pretense of faddists who would teach Americanism to workers forced to labor long hours, and who insist on working out educational plans "for" the foreigner and not "with" him.

The bureau's report showed that there was no attempt to teach the English language for purposes of communication, and that in many instances the teachers treated the foreigners as children and discussed subjects which they knew less of than their pupils.

It is stated that the best teaching of English observed was in a class of workers taught by an organizer of one of the labor organizations. "The enunciation was not always correct," says the report, "but the spirit in the class was that of equals working out a problem together."

The report closes with this sound Americanism:

"The adult education problem is a social problem. If it is to be worked out successfully, it must be developed through the intelligent understanding and co-operative responsibility of all the people.

"If there is any tendency to bring pressure to bear to refuse any individual or group of individuals the opportunity to learn English for fear of the opinions which they may express when they can express them in English; if there is an atmosphere of distrust and skepticism outside the schools as to the sincerity of the desire of the majority to learn English; if espionage displaces the community benefits of rational freedom; if the attempt is made to develop the schools for the people instead of with the people, then there is no hope of developing an adequate system of adult education in Passaic."

UNORGANIZED STRIKE.

Newbern, N. C., Jan. 8.—Unorganized employes of the Newbern Iron Works have abandoned a profit sharing scheme that the management suggested and have suspended work to stop wage reductions. When business was good the firm made no mention of profit sharing, but now, with a falling market, and no demand for its commodity, it offered to divide profits when the workers rejected a 20 per cent wage cut. The workers tried the profit sharing plan for a short time and then abandoned it. They were expected to pay all overhead expenses, which included the fine salaries of officials who did not cut their wages as the workers are asked to do.

ENGINEERS GET 8 HOURS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 8.—The 12-hour day of hoisting engineers in mines has been reduced to eight hours by the anthracite board of conciliation. The new wage scale shall be as follows: "To the rate paid hoisting engineers in April, 1916, for a 12-hour shift, shall be added $2 a day plus 17 per cent, in the case of inside employment and $1.80 per day, plus 17 per cent in the case of outside employment and the new rates thus derived shall be paid an eight-hour day."

MINERS CHARGE TRICKERY.

Williamson, W. Va., Jan. 8.—Miners' officials charge that miners are brought into the Mingo county coal fields on the plea that the mines are "government operated." One miner made affidavit that when he sought employment in Cincinnati he was told that a West Virginia mine was operated by the government and that there was no trouble in that field. When he came here he refused to act the part of a strikebreaker.